

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parent or Guardian of Students in Jordan School District
FROM: Karl Wilson, State Director of Title I Programs
DATE: April 24, 2008
RE: Districts Identified Under NCLB As In Need of Improvement

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires all states to develop their own high academic standards of what students should know and be able to do for all grades in reading/language arts and for mathematics. Student progress toward mastering the Utah State Core Curriculum is measured each year through end-of-year assessments. The results of these assessments are used to determine whether schools and districts are meeting the NCLB goal of having all students proficient by 2014. This annual determination is defined as adequate yearly progress (AYP). Both schools and school districts are identified as in need of improvement when they do not achieve (AYP) for two consecutive years in the same subject area(s).

Title I requirements under NCLB require state education agencies to notify parents when local education agencies (school districts and charter schools) have been identified as in need of improvement. This letter is to notify you that Jordan School District is in Title I District Improvement under No Child Left Behind in the subject area of Mathematics. The public may find more information by looking at the "School Report Cards" link on the Utah State Office of Education website at www.schools.utah.gov. To exit Title I District Improvement, a district must meet its target goals for two consecutive years in the same subject area for which they were identified as in need of improvement.

This means several things for the school district. First, the district will continue to identify steps to improve student achievement by revising its district Consolidated Utah Student Achievement Plan (CUSAP). This plan is submitted to the state and describes what the school district will do to help all children meet challenging academic achievement standards. In revising the plan, Jordan School District will consult with parent representatives, school staff, and others.

Second, in revising its CUSAP, the school district is required by NCLB law to use ten percent of its Title I allocation for the professional development of its instructional staff rather than for direct services to students. This must be done by specifically addressing the academic achievement problem(s) that caused the school district to be identified for improvement.

Parents are encouraged to help their schools and district improve student achievement. Here are a few ways:

- Talk with school and district officials about their plans and the program changes that will help students meet academic standards.
- Let your child know that education is important to you. Read with your child every day.
- Help your child to complete homework.
- Visit your child's school and volunteer.
- Ensure daily, on-time attendance for your child.

The Utah State Office of Education is committed to working with the district to provide technical assistance as schools and districts improve student performance. If you have further questions, please contact your local school district office.